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BOROUGH OF TIVERTON

A N N U A L R E P O R T

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REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

to the Borough of Tiverton.

For the year ended 31st December, 1953.

11, St. Peter Street,

Tiverton.

July, 1954.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to lay before you my Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1953.

Area. Although the Borough covers an area of 17,680 acres, the Town itself covers 300 acres only.

Population. 11,320.

Inhabited Houses. Number in 1953 was 3,546.

Rateable Value is £75,923.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate. £315 - 5 - 4

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		Total.	Males.	Females.	
Live Births	Legitimate	171	78	93	Birth Rate: 15.7 per 1000
	Illegitimate	6	1	5	
Still Births	Legitimate	7	4	3	Rate per 1000 Births 40.9 (Total Live and Still Births)
	Illegitimate	1			
Corrected Birth Rate.		16.4			
Deaths...		167	125	42	Death Rate: per 1000 14.6
Corrected Death Rate. ... ...12.7 per 1000					

The rather high death rate follows an unusually low one in 1952.

Deaths from Pregnancy and Childbirth, 1; Puerperal Sepsis, 0; other causes, 0.

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age. (3) All infants per 1000 live births, 16.8

Illegitimate infants under 1 year, Nil.

Deaths from Measles ... ... Nil.

" " Whooping Cough ... Nil.

" " Diarrhoea... ... Nil.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was II.4, and the Birth Rate I5.5. The Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales was 26.8 per I000 live Births. Still Births 22.4 per I000.

Deaths from Cancer, I8

Breast	- Male	-	Female	2
Stomach	- "	2	"	3
Lung	- "	2	"	-
Other Sites	- "	6	"	3

This is 7 less than the previous year.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(I) Nursing in the Home. No change.

(2) Domiciliary Midwifery is carried out by the two district nurses.

(3) Laboratory Facilities. There are two in the Area - The County Laboratory and that connected with the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital.

(4) Hospitals. The old Joint Board Isolation Hospital has now been taken over by the Regional Hospital Board for the reception of recovery cases. Belmont Hospital the converted workhouse is now a chronic sick hospital also with part accommodation, in the Exeter & Mid Devon Hospital Group. Infectious cases are sent to Whipton Isolation Hospital where accommodation is always adequate.

Tiverton and District Hospital deals with Surgical, Medical and Maternity cases. There are 50 beds, II of which are devoted to Maternity cases. Bookings are carried out by the County Medical Officer.

A Tuberculosis Clinic is now held at the above Hospital twice monthly.

(5) Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers. None in the Area.

(6) Ambulance Facilities. No change.

(7) Clinics and Treatment Centres:-

Minor Ailments Clinic Wednesdays 9 - I2 a.m.
Dr. Proctor-Sims and Mrs. Sparks in attendance.

Remedial Exercise Clinic. Wednesdays II - I2 a.m.
Mrs. Sparks in attendance.

Ophthalmic Clinic. 2nd Tuesdays in alternate months commencing January etc.
Dr. Foxwell in attendance. By appointment.

Speech Therapy Clinics. Fortnightly at present.
No permanent Speech Therapist.
Held on Thursdays.

School Dental Service. Emergency treatment
Wednesdays 9 - I2.30 a.m. I.30 - 4 p.m.
Other days by appointment.
Mr. Langstrap. Newly appointed.

Maternity & Child Welfare Centre. This Centre is open weekly on Wednesdays, 2.0 to 4.0 p.m.

Ante-natal Clinic at the Tiverton and District Hospital on Tuesdays, 3 p.m.

The attendances for 1953 were as follows:-

Total infants attending for first time		83
" children, 1 to 5 years, attending for first time.		13
Number on Register at end of year	- Mothers	297
" " " " " " "	- Infants	83
" " " " " " "	- 1 to 5 years ...	114
Number of attendances during 1953	- Mothers	1469
" " " " "	- Infants	1056
" " " " "	- 1 to 5 years ...	598

The Mothers and Children have had supervision and advice both at the Welfare weekly by the Medical Officer and the Health Visitor, and in their houses by the Health Visitor. Simple treatment has been given where considered sufficient, in other cases the mothers were referred to their private doctor for treatment.

The Orthopaedic Clinic was held on 52 Tuesdays during the year - Appointments are made by the Secretary, Miss Waterworth, and this works very well.

Number on Register, 1/1/53	317
" " " 31/12/53	301
Sessions held by Surgeons 48; After care Sister 38.	86
New Cases...	383
Discharges..	399
Admitted to Hospital	41
Average weekly attendance	26.1
Number of Attendances...	1359

Admissions:	Adults	339
	School Age...	26
	Infants	18
		383

Some of the elder patients have been trained at St. Loye's College for the Disabled, in connection with the Clinic, the aim being the complete rehabilitation of the patients.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Scabies. Non reported during the year.

Diphtheria Immunization. Vaccination procedure administered by County Council and a Clinic is held for this purpose on each Wednesday. The majority of cases are dealt with by local doctors at their surgeries. The percentage of children immunised continues to be highly satisfactory.

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality in 1953.
(Table on page 4)

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925).
No action taken.

Tuberculosis.

Age Period.	NEW CASES Pulmonary. M	F	Non-Pulmonary. M	F	DEATHS Pulmonary. M	F	Non-Pulmonary. M	F
7	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
I0	I	-	I	-	-	-	-	-
I4	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	2	I	-	-	-	-	-	-
50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
60	I	-	-	-	3	I	-	-
80	-	I	-	-	-	-	-	-
NK	-	-	-	I	-	-	-	-
Totals	8	7	I	I	3	I	-	-

Notifiable Diseases. Age Incidence.

Age Period	Scarlet Fever	Dysentery	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pnuemonia	Erysipelas
Under I year		-	-	I	-
I to 2	2	-	-	-	-
3 to 4	2	-	-	-	-
5 to 9	I7	-	-	-	-
I0 to I4	2	-	-	-	-
I5 to 24	I	-	-	I	-
25 to 40	I	-	-	-	-
40 to 65	-	-	-	2	-
65 and over	-	-	-	I	-
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	25	-	-	5	-

Age Period	Measles	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic/Non	Acute Encephalitis Infective Post Infective
Under I year	I0	I0	-	-
I to 2	50	I2	-	-
3 to 4	64	I2	I	-
5 to 9	I29	20	-	I
I0 to I4	I0	I	-	-
I5 to 24	30	I	-	-
25 to 40	-	5	I	-
40 to 65	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-
Age Unknown	9	I	-	-
Totals	302	62	2	I

Public Health Act, I925. No action taken.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE NICHOLSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

to the Borough of Tiverton

1st January to 31st December, 1953.

Sanitary Inspector's Office,
Town Hall, Tiverton.
May 1954.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Tiverton Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in bringing to your attention my eighth Annual Report dealing with my duties for the year 1953.

The housing programme has made such strides that by the end of the year the Council owned approximately 800 houses and the number of applicants on the waiting list had been reduced to 198, of this number 74 were in respect of applicants without separate homes.

Slum Clearance. A Slum Clearance Area in respect of Nos. 6 to 18 Little Silver was submitted to the Council and has since been confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

Meat and Food Inspection. Following my usual practice, I again carried out ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection of all animals at the Borough Abattoir, a total of 4226 animals. Approximately 7½ tons of meat and offal was condemned as unfit for human consumption. It is interesting to note the marked drop in the percentage of bovines affected with tuberculosis.

I also paid 114 visits to food premises and condemned approximately 1½ tons of tinned and other foodstuffs as unfit for human consumption and disposed of same.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supply.

(1) The water supply for the Town has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

(2) Bacteriological examinations have been made at regular monthly intervals of the treated water going into supply. Water from the Allers supply (source springs at Norwood Common, supplemented by pumping from River Exe) is both filtered and chlorinated. Water from the Warnicombe supply is only chlorinated.

(3) The waters have no plumbo-solvent action.

(4) No contamination during year.

(5) The number of dwelling houses in the Borough and population supplied from public mains are 3368 houses, 11,320 population. The water is piped in direct to approximately 2,828 houses, whilst approximately 540 houses are supplied by means of stand pipes. These latter houses being situated principally in Courts.

RESULTS OF SAMPLING

Source of Supply.	No.of Samples.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Allers Public Main.	I9	I7	2
Warnicombe Public Main.	I3	I3	-
Farms and other Premises.	II	5	6

Inspection and Supervision of Meat and Foods

304 Visits of Inspection were made to the Council's Abattoir for the purpose of Meat Inspection. Ante-mortem is a regular feature of the meat inspection service.

The following table shows the numbers of animals slaughtered at the Public Abattoir during the year and gives details of meat and offal condemned as diseased or unsound:-

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	348	I32	940	2706	I00
Number Inspected.	348	I32	940	2706	I00
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT T.B.:-					
Whole carcases condemned ...	2	3	33	83	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2II	II2	4	33I	II
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	6I.2%	87.I%	3.93%	I5.3%	I5%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:-					
Whole carcases condemned ...	-	2	-	-	I
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	I0	-	-	I
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis...	I.72%	9.I%	-	-	2%

Note:- Included in the above totals are 24 dressed sheep, 3 dressed pigs, and I dressed calf received at the Slaughter House.

BEEF

No. of Carcases	Disease	Weight
I	Acute Fever.	488
I	Septic Metritis.	432
I	Actimonycosis, Emaciation & Dropsy.	2II
I	Acute Gastro Enteritis.	I45
I	Gen. Oedema & Bruising.	404
5		I680 lbs.
Parts of Carcases		
I	Abscess.	I0 lbs.
Offal	Various.	4092 lbs.

BEEF - Tuberculosis.

No. of Carcases		
2	Generalised T.B.	9I4 lbs.
Parts of Carcases		
I	Tuberculosis.	I99 lbs.
Offal	T.B.	520 lbs.

Total Weight of BEEF Condemned. I tons. 5 cwts. 0 qrs. 3 lbs.
" " " OFFAL " 2 " I " 0 " 20 "

CALVES

No. of Carcases	Disease	Weight
II	Umbilical Pyaemia.	607
3	Immature.	95
I	Ureamia.	63
I	Multiple Tumours.	65
5	Acute Fever.	246
I	Bi-lateral Pyelonephritis.	39
I	Pericarditis & Pleurisy.	56
I0	Oedema, Associated with Emaciation, Peritonitis, Inflammation, Injuries, and Rupture.	5I2
I	Arthritis and Emaciation.	29
34		I7I2 lbs.
Parts		
I	Abscess.	4 lbs.
Offal	Various.	352 lbs.

Total Weight of VEAL condemned. I5 cwts. I qr. 8 lbs.
" " " OFFAL " 3 " 0 " I6 "

SHEEP

No. of Carcases.	Disease.	Weight.
20	Acute Fever.	II03
9	Septicaemia.	575
I0	Gangrenous Pneumonia.	598
4	Moribund.	I96
4	Acute Septic Peritonitis.	2I4
I6	Oedema, Associated with Emaciation and General Dropsy.	628
2	Anaemia.	56
4	General Jaundice.	259
2	Deep & Extensive Injuries.	I32
4	Traumatic Injuries.	I36
5	Entero-Toxaemia.	275
3	Septic Mastitis.	I89
3	Septic Metritis.	I80
I	Bi-Lateral Pelonephritis.	42
87		4583 lbs.
Parts of Carcases.		
I4	Injuries.	I99
5	Pneumonia & Pleurisy.	54
5	Abscess.	I9
I	Mastitis.	I5
25		287 lbs.
Offal.	Various.	I586 lbs.

Total Weight of MUTTON Condemned. 2 tons. 3 cwts. I qr. 26 lbs.
" " " OFFAL " I4 " 0 " I8 "

PIGS

No. of Carcases.		
I	Acute Erysipelas.	I94
I	Pyaemia.	46
I	General Jaundice & Badly Set.	I29
I	General Oedema & Badly Bled.	I35
4		504 lbs.
Parts.		
2	Injuries.	I7 lbs.
Offal	Various.	65 lbs.

PIGS - Tuberculosis.

Carcases		
I	Generalised T.B.	I74 lbs.
Offal	T.B.	9 lbs.

Total Weight of PORK Condemned. 6 cwts. 0 qrs. 23 lbs.
" " " OFFAL " 2 " I8 "

II4 Visits made to shops for the purpose of inspection and condemnation of Unsound Food and premises inspected for contravention of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

The following is a list of food condemned:-

Description	Weight lbs.	Description	Weight lbs.
Meat	1363¾	Br/fd.	2512¾
Meat Pies	80	Tinned Fish	70
Bacon	6¼	" Milk	66
Fish	127	" Jam & Marmalade	52
Cheese	21	" Fruit	613¼
Tinned Meat	691¼	" Fruit Juice	6
" Ham	217¾	" Vegetables	262
" Soup	5¾	" Dog Food	4
Cr/fd.	2512¾		3586

Total Weight of Food Condemned. 1 ton. 12 cwts. 0 qrs. 2 lbs.

Milk Regulations

Licences for the retailing of Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised Milk have been issued to the following:-

Mrs. Richards, Park Street Dairy.
Mr. R. E. Thomas, Slough Dairy.
Mr. W. H. Brealey, Luxtons Dairy, 2A West Exe North.
Mr. P. Hooper, The Fountain Dairy.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Slaughterhouse	304
Water Samples taken:-	
Public Mains	32
Other Premises and Farms	11
Clearance Areas	16
Inspections re Complaints	168
Revisits	158
Drainage Tests	154
" Advisory Visits	11
" Inspections & Revisits	120
Food Shops re Condemned Food	114
Food & Drugs Act:- Bakehouses	2
Restaurants	4
Dairies	10
Registrations - Ice Cream	1
" - Fish Fryer	1
Milk Regulations	4
Shops Act	3
Factories Act	55
Council's Points Scheme:- Inspections	201
Revisits	171
Rodent Control	57
Disinfection	11
Disinfestation	12
Petroleum	17
Caravans	20
Infectious Diseases	8
Civil Defence	7
Miscellaneous	3
	1675

FACTORIES IN DETAIL.		INSPECTION		
Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) (2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6) (7)
(i) Factories in which Sec. I, 2,3,4,& 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	25	4	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	88	28	I	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	19	23	Nil	Nil
Totals	132	55	I	Nil

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of Cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred - To H.M. Inspector	Referred - By H.M. Inspector	
(I) (2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7) (8)
Want of cleanliness	I	I	-	-	- -
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	- -
Unreasonable temperature.	-	-	-	-	- -
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	- -
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-	-	- -
Sanitary Conveniences (a) insufficient	2	2	-	-	- -
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	- -
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	- -
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	I	I	-	-	- -
Total	4	4	-	-	- -

OUTWORK

Number of Out-workers required by Sect. IIO.

Wearing Apparel (Making, etc. Cleaning and washing).....28
Lace, lace curtains and nets.....16

CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 1953.

PART A. - CLEARANCE AREAS (Housing Act.1936)

	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in the period.		Number of persons displaced
	Unfit houses	Other houses	
(1) Land coloured "pink"	Nil	--------	Nil
(2) Land coloured "grey"	------	Nil	Nil

PART B. - HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS

	Number of Houses	Number of Persons displaced
DEMOLITIONS AND CLOSING ORDERS		
(1) Housing Act, 1936		
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11	2	Nil
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11, and still in force... ...	Nil	Nil
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	Nil	Nil
(2) Housing Act, 1949		
(a) Closing Orders made under Section 3(1)	Nil	Nil
(b) Demolition orders determined and closing orders substituted under Section 3 (2)	Nil	Nil
(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953	Nil	Nil
Closing Orders made under Section 10(1)		

	Number of Houses
REPAIRS	
INFORMAL ACTION	
(4) Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the local Authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts...	44
(5) Public Health Acts ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(a) by owners	5
(b) by local authority in default of owners	Nil
(6) Housing Act, 1936. Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16)	
(a) by owners	3
(b) by local authority in default of owners	Nil

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928

50 Licences were re-issued for the storage of 33,745 gallons of Petroleum Spirit, 2,000 gallons of Petroleum Mixtures, and 185 gallons Cellulose Thinners.

Seventeen premises were inspected and advice given on installation of further storage tanks and pumps.

2 Licences re-issued for storage of Carbide of Calcium.

EXPLOSIVES ACT, 1875.

23 applications were received for the registration of premises for the storage of gunpowder and mixed explosives.

23 Certificates of Registration were granted.

RODENT CONTROL

Mr. Luxon carried out systematic inspections of the various premises in the Borough including 251 agricultural properties and 563 business properties.

A total of 54 treatments were carried out as compared with 77 last year.

The gin trap again proved its worth and has been largely instrumental in keeping the built up area of the Town free from rats.

In conclusion, I wish to record my grateful appreciation of the duties performed by Miss Newton and also my thanks to members of the Council for the consideration shown me in discharging the duties of my office.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES JEFFRIES, M.S.I.A.,C.R.S.I.

Borough Sanitary Inspector

RODENT CONTROL

The end of 1952 saw the completion of a year's working of the service since the severance of the joint arrangement with the Borough and Rural District Councils.

As a result of the concentration of Mr. Luxon's efforts within our own district, it has been found possible to carry out a systematic search spread over the entire area.

489 properties were inspected during the year but as many of these were inspected on several occasions, the total number of visits for the year were greatly in excess of this number.

77 properties were found to be infested with rats or mice, 58 of these to a minor extent only, and the infestations were treated by Mr. Luxon.

179 visits were made to inspect the gin traps maintained on the waterways entering the town and these traps have continued to yield a rich harvest and have achieved more than any other form of control to keep the rat population in the town down to a minimum.

The usual bi-annual treatments to the Council's sewers were carried out and infestation has remained confined to the few streets in which the sewers are of very old construction, and few surface infestations were traced to defective drainage connections.

I think we may gain some satisfaction at the steady reduction in the number of rats in the district, and if only every district in the country were equally successful the day might not be far distant when this pest would be definitely under control.

In conclusion, I wish to record my grateful appreciation of the duties performed by Miss Newton and also my thanks to members of the Council for the consideration shown me in discharging the duties of my office.

I remain,
Yours faithfully,

CHARLES JEFFRIES, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,

Borough Sanitary Inspector